

November 9, 2011

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To Whom It May Concern:

2011 NOV 16 P 2:39

We originally replied to your proposal to close our post office here in Home, Kansas on August 16, 2011. At that time we pointed out some mistakes in your docket. Since we are now in the final appeal process, we believe it is time to once again plead our case and point out areas with errors, as no attempt has been made to correct these errors.

The most glaring error that you refuse to recognize involves what this office costs to operate. You insist that our postmaster (OIC) receives \$15,350 per annum in salary and an additional \$5,142 per annum in fringe benefits. While we trust the lady who runs our post office would gladly accept these amounts, she actually receives \$11.98 per hour along with no fringe benefits. Since this office is open only 20 hours per week (no Saturday service thank you), the total outlay for personnel here is less than \$12,000, (holidays x 4 hours x no pay), not the \$20,492 you keep insisting on.

The final and perhaps the most important consideration for an appeal concerning the closing the Home, Kansas post office involves the conducting of your "proposed discontinuance" meeting here on April 7, 2011. This meeting was conducted by Ron Reilly, postmaster at Columbus, Nebraska, and Dorothy Bryan, postmaster at Auburn, Kansas. In your handbook PO-101, Section 253, you state that community meetings are to be held by a District Manager or Manager of Post Office Operations. The handbook does not state that anyone else should be conducting these meetings. Since we did not have the proper representation at our meeting, we think an appeal is in order and we hope you will give us the meeting we deserve with the proper personnel in attendance.

Received

NOV 14 2011

Office of PAGR

Thank you for your time.

Pat and Jim Schramm
Lewis Seed and Fertilizer
208 2nd Street
Home, Ks 66438

August 16, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The following is an appeal to keep the Home, Kansas Post Office open. We received the official docket to notify this community of your decision to close the Post Office. There are several errors in the docket.

1. The Home Post Office does not have a Postmaster. We have an O.I.C. Therefore the salary outlay is not \$15,350. She is an hourly employee and she does NOT receive benefits...both are errors in the docket. Total cost for the office would be less than \$20,000.
2. The docket states the Postmaster retired in 2001. That is also an error. The last Postmaster was Frank Peterson, and he retired in 1989.
3. The docket states the Marysville Post Office has window service all day long, when they are actually closed from 11 a.m. to Noon...not convenient for someone who has a lunch hour at that time.
4. Stated in the docket is that the Home Post Office is not handicap accessible. If you view the photos of the Post Office in the docket you can clearly see the handicap ramp...the Post Office is indeed handicap accessible.
5. The revenue is not stated. Blue Valley Telecommunications, one of our many local businesses, sends out 6,000 statements a month to their customers...along with advertising flyers, and a newsletter at least ten times each year, in addition to a yearly report sent to each customer. Another business, Fisher Rock, mail all of their rock sales through our Post Office. Home City Grain, and Lewis Seed and Fertilizer, also send out monthly statements. The revenue at our Post Office is over \$50,000 each year. Our Post Office definitely has revenue.
6. The docket contains patron questionnaires from other communities. We thought this was a docket exclusively for Home, Kansas...

We attended three area meetings concerning the closing of local Post Offices. Each time we were told the Postal Department could not stop Saturday service/delivery. We have not had Saturday service for many years and we have adjusted. At all three meetings we were told the route delivery person could handle all service requests. If that in fact is correct...fine...then close all Post Offices nationwide...let everyone adjust...not just us in the small communities. Let the route people handle everything. We can tell you right now the route union will be up in arms. All the extra work would result in extra pay and more employees. Also, there would be

the expense of schooling for the route people so that they would be capable of handling all services.

When the Postal Department took the box service out of our Post Office, they took revenue away from us. When they moved our local delivery from Home to Marysville, they took revenue from us then, as the money now goes to Marysville. The Postal Department has continued to chip away at our community hoping to have a reason for closure. Our community is growing. Since last April, another new home has been built, and two families have moved to our community, adding ten more people to our population. Our town may be small, but we are not by any means dying. Yes, the Postal Department is in trouble. However, by closing our Post Office and other offices nationwide, the savings would be less than 1% of the department budget. Looking at the overall picture, if you would eliminate Saturday service/delivery, it would save money across the country. My point is, why do the small communities in the Heartland of America have to be the ones to adjust?

The Postal Department sells stamps, but how do you deliver your reports? Online. How do they pay bills? Online. The department spent millions on computers and internet to save money...looks like a case of cutting off your nose to spite your face.

The Postmaster General retired with how much of a bonus? Quite noble. We think he should have turned his salary and his bonus back into the department. He can't be blamed for bailing out of such a mess.

Taking all available information into consideration, we think the department is wrong to close the Home, Kansas Post Office. It would be to your advantage to leave it open, reinstall the local boxes and move the route origin back to our town. We are a thriving community, and would like to be recognized for what we really are...not just another place to make a budget cut.

Thank you for your time.

Pat and Jim Schramm
Lewis Seed and Fertilizer
208 2nd Street
Home, Ks 66438

On April 7, 2011 we were told that our beloved Home Post Office was under review and had a very slim chance of surviving.

Yes, we would like to hear that our rural route would originate again in Home. That route carrier was removed to Marysville, Kansas many years ago. The stamp money and all letters are taken to Marysville. Thus giving all revenue and count to the Marysville, Kansas Post Office.

Yes, we would like to hear that the lobby boxes would be re-installed. Those were taken out 20 years ago. Boxes represent revenue and business at the window in a lobby of the Post Office. So again revenue and piece count was taken away.

Yes, we would like to hear that again we would have Saturday service; but that was also removed several years ago. Saturday is a day a lot of people don't work and they could send packages, or purchase stamps and money orders. All of these services have been taken away from us so of course the inside window revenue and piece count is down. Like it or not we have adjusted to these changes.

We are a progressive community...here are some of the facts.....

Home, Kansas population.....138

Businesses..... 14

Jobs in our community..... 148

The largest employer is Blue Valley Tele-Communications. In the last two years they have built a multi-million dollar office facility. Each month they send out at least 6,000 statements to customers. Ten times a year they mail a newsletter and once a year a yearly report to each customer. Also potential customers receive flyers advertising various specials. This company alone generates a lot of revenue as well as the other businesses and residents of this community. In the past several years our community has installed a sewer system. The volunteer fire department is in the process of building a new fire station. Also in the last few years six new homes have been built in our community. These homes belong to young families.

We don't have a Postmaster, her title is OIC...therefore she does not get benefits. The Post Office has saved a lot of money over the last twenty years; we do not have Saturday service, just five days a week 8am to 12pm.

The United States Post Office has continued to pull our services so of course our lobby revenue and activity is down....look at the bottom line: we are paying our way...our revenue far out weighs the expense. Please be fair.

We appreciate any help you can give us to keep our Post Office in our community.

Thank You.

Jim Schramm
Pat Schramm
Lewis Seed & Fertilizer, Inc.
208 Second St.
Home, Kansas 66438